



Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

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9 March 1994

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Leaders Arrive in Kenya for IGADD Summit on Sudan

EA0803122594 Nairobi Kenya Broadcasting Corporation Network in English 1000 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Excerpt] Presidents Yoweri Museveni of Uganda, Meles Zenawi of Ethiopia, and Isayas Afewerki of Eritrea arrived in Nairobi this morning for a one-day Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development, IGADD, head of states committee for the summit on the Sudanese peace negotiations. On hand to meet them at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport was His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi, who is the chairman of the peace committee. First to arrive was President Museveni whose plane touched down at 0916, followed by President Afewerki, who arrived at 0950, and President Zenawi at 1030. The three presidents inspected a colorful guard of honor mounted by a section of the Armed Forces of Kenya after receiving a bouquet of flowers each and the national anthems of their respective countries were played. [passage omitted]

Urge Sudanese To Stop Fighting

EA0803165094 Nairobi Kenya Broadcasting Corporation Network in English 1300 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Excerpt] The Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development [IGADD] committee on the conflict in the Sudan comprising of Presidents Yoweri Museveni of Uganda, Meles Zenawi of Ethiopia, and Isayas Afewerki of Eritrea met in Nairobi today under the chairmanship of His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi at State House, Nairobi, to seek a lasting solution to the conflict in the Sudan.

The four heads of state urged the parties involved in the military activities in southern Sudan to stop any further human suffering so as to create a conducive atmosphere for the success of the IGADD peace initiative. The IGADD committee reminded the Government of Sudan and the two Sudanese People's Liberation Movement

and the Sudanese People's Liberation Army factions of their stated commitment to the IGADD peace initiative. [passage omitted]

Sudanese Foreign Minister Comments

EA0803202694 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1400 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] Sudan has again emphasized its confidence in the initiative of Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development [IGADD] for establishing peace in southern Sudan and its readiness to participate in peace negotiations at any appointed time.

Foreign Minister Husayn Abu-Salih, in a news conference in Nairobi today, said Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir had agreed to participate in the summit meeting of the IGADD initiative which started in Nairobi today. However, the Kenyan authorities had said that the meeting was limited to heads of the mediating group only.

His excellency expressed the hope that the IGADD meeting would draw up a final agenda for peace negotiations and would succeed in fixing a timetable for negotiations with the rebel movement.

With regard to the role that the United States could play in the peace process, his excellency said that America represented a superpower and if it did not strive to reach a peaceful solution this would affect the negotiations. He added that Sudan welcomed every effort under the umbrella of IGADD. His excellency said that [words indistinct].

Museveni, Zenawi Depart

EA0803205094 Nairobi Kenya Broadcasting Corporation Network in English 1600 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Excerpt] Presidents Yoweri Museveni of Uganda and Meles Zenawi of Ethiopia left Nairobi this evening after attending a fruitful one-day Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development, IGADD, heads of state committee for the summit on the Sudanese peace negotiations chaired by President Daniel arap Moi at State House, Nairobi. The peace negotiations were also attended by President Isayas Afewerki of Eritrea. [passage omitted]

Burundi**Ethnic Killings Reportedly Spread to Ngozi***AB0903120594 Paris AFP in English 0928 GMT
9 Mar 94*

[Excerpt] Bujumbura, 9 March (AFP)—Tribal killings have spread to a previously unaffected part of Burundi, a provincial governor reported as ethnic tensions remain high more than four months after the assassination of President Melchior Ndadaye. About 50 minority Tutsi were slain on Monday [7 March] night by majority Hutu using machetes and clubs at Tangara in the north, Ngozi Province Governor Joseph Ntakirutimana told state radio. He said the Hutu then fled with their families to neighbouring Kiremba. The radio said there had been other killings in the past few days in Musenyi in the north-western province of Bubanza, but gave no casualty figures. [passage omitted]

Central African Republic**Patasse Meets With Former President Kolingba***AB0903114094 Bangui Radiodiffusion-Television
Centrafricaine Radio in French 1800 GMT 8 Mar 94*

[Text] I have come to give myself up to the law. That, in essence, was what former President Andre Kolingba said after holding discussions with President Ange Felix Patasse at the Palais de la Renaissance in the presence of Ngoupande, secretary general of the Central African Democratic Rally [RDC], whose founding chairman is Kolingba. Also present at the audience granted by President Patasse were Prime Minister Jean-Louis Mandaba, Defense Minister Jean Mete-Yapende, Interior Minister Jean-Claude Dobanga, Justice Minister Jacques Mbosso, and some advisers at the Presidency of the Republic.

The discussions centered on the insecurity that prevailed before and after the time the Central African people chose to live in peace (?and to enjoy) the democracy for which many compatriots lost their lives. In this regard, the former head of state gave the following explanations:

[Begin Kolingba recording] I came to meet President Patasse and to give myself up to the law. That is what I told him. But then, why did I say that? I said that because people are seeing or feeling threats of coups d'etat because [words indistinct] indiscriminate distribution of war weapons. In fact that is understandable but since only the RDC and its supporters are harassed, I believe that I am the one targeted, and this is why I came to see the head of state to give myself up. However, President Patasse (?fraternally) and politely rejected this idea.

I believe I did the impossible and I withstood the impossible [word indistinct] to establish the multiparty system in this country [word indistinct] without bloodshed but today, we note—and this is my opinion—some flagrant abuses that are dangerous for our young democracy. This is happening without any reaction at all from

those very people who claim to be advocates of human rights [words indistinct] and today we are hiding behind the most striking mutism. I would like to take the people to witness and say that if there are bloody disturbances in the country I, as of today, reject every responsibility for them. [Words indistinct] I did it for 12 years to bring peace to the country.

That in brief, is what we discussed. We also reviewed many other domestic issues. We understood each other perfectly, and I think that President Patasse will find solutions and responses to the problems within a relatively short time. [Words indistinct] I thank you. [end recording]

Shortly after the discussions with his predecessor, President Patasse accompanied by Prime Minister Mandaba and his cabinet members inspected a war arsenal seized from groups of unidentified armed men carrying out military operations in the eastern part of our country. President Patasse called on the Africa No. 1 radio delegation currently visiting Bangui to also inspect the arsenal and to inform the international opinion about his good faith.

President Patasse stated, quote, I have learned that President Patasse harbors troops opposed to governments of some sister countries on his national territory. Here is proof that the allegations are false and that President Patasse can never allow armed groups (?to operate) on Central African Republic territory, unquote. At the end of the inspection, Colonel Wanfiou, chief of Army staff spoke to our reporter, Fidinguere Yedi:

[Begin recording] [Wanfiou] On 22 February everybody learned on the radio about an incursion of foreign troops into our country, mainly in the east. I immediately dispatched troops from Bangui to the region, while our detachment which was at [name indistinct] was [words indistinct]. After 48 hours of fighting, we succeeded in driving the adversaries away. In fact, they were [word indistinct] Sudanese rebels who infiltrated our national territory. We halted [words indistinct] and we seized a sizable consignment of weapons and ammunition. Now, calm has returned to the area [words indistinct] and I have already brought back the (?elements). If you have more questions, I am ready to answer them.

[Yedi] Col. Wanfiou, are you still at the scene of the fighting?

[Wanfiou] Yes, actually we are still at the scene. [end recording]

Democratic Rally Members Detained, Interrogated*AB0803174094 Paris AFP in French 1201 GMT
8 Mar 94*

[Text] Bangui, 8 Mar (AFP)—Two members of the Central African Democratic Rally [RDC], the former sole ruling party of former President General Andre

Kolingba, were called for interrogation in the middle of last week and detained in Bangui, it was learned from various sources today.

Augustin Ngbanda, President Kolingba's former secretary of state for public security, and Joseph Kanda "reportedly masterminded acts of social and political agitation, as well as creating pockets of social tension in some districts of Bangui," Claude Dobanga, minister of interior and national security, asserted.

The RDC did not react to these accusations today.

On 6 March, Dobanga denounced "the detention of weapons of war and the organization of pockets of tension in some districts of the capital by certain dignitaries of the former regime." According to the minister, this situation resulted in the carrying out of "attacks against foreigners, with technical assistants as the innocent targets."

Early February, two other RDC members, Lamido Daouda Ibrahim and Mahamat Salle, were arrested and detained at the gendarmerie, according to informed sources.

The two men, the president and secretary general of the Central African Republic's National Association of Livestock Breeders, were accused of distributing weapons to the Zaraguinas, a local nickname given to "armed robbers."

In the middle of January, the government had announced "coercive measures" against the Zaraguinas who were stealing, looting, and kidnapping travelers and livestock breeders on the roadside.

Gabon

Opposition Leader Abessole Leaves for Paris

AB0903110794 Paris AFP in French 0800 GMT
9 Mar 94

[Text] Libreville, 9 Mar (AFP)—Gabon's main opposition leader Father Paul Mba Abessole, who is accused by the government of fomenting the violent clashes in Libreville from 21 to 24 February that left nine dead, left the Gabonese capital yesterday evening for Paris, an opposition spokesman disclosed. Father Mba Abessole is going to France "to take some rest, and he will maintain contacts with his friends," the same source said without stating the duration of his trip. The National Lumberjacks Rally leader, who was accompanied by an opposition delegation and seen off by several dozen supporters at Libreville Airport, was able to "board the aircraft without any difficulty," the spokesman added.

Since security forces besieged his residence on 23 February, Father Abessole has not made any public appearance. The government has specifically accused him of provoking the four-day disturbances which rocked several areas in Libreville at the beginning of the general

strike called by a pro-opposition trade union to demand postdevaluation salary increases. Several opposition leaders belonging to the High Resistance Council chaired by Father Mba Abessole are currently in Paris.

Zaire

Opposition, Presidency Accuse Each Other of Corruption

LD0903114694 Paris Radio France International in French 0630 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] In Zaire, the debates of the High Council of the Republic, the new transitional parliament [HCR-PT], are going slowly but surely. Important articles, about which the opposition and the parliament had disagreed before, were finally adopted in Kinshasa yesterday. Herve de Guelinck reports:

[Guelinck] An agreement was reached yesterday on the autonomy of the Central Bank—and this is no mean feat—on the way regional governors are to be appointed, and on the government's responsibility. The transition rules are gradually getting clearer.

Another eight articles remain to be debated, including the famous 76, which makes provisions for the way the prime minister should be appointed.

That just shows how both sides are preparing for the final showdown, for which it will be necessary to know who is on which side, since good accounts make good friends. Each side is accusing the other of attempted corruption. The Sacred Union of the Radical Opposition and its allies say they possess a damning file indicating that the presidency has 120 million new zaires to convince some opposition counsellors to vote in favor of the ideas of the Political Forces of the Conclave. On the other hand, some newspapers have said that France and Belgium would pay those voting for Tshisekedi. Information or indoctrination?

Monsengwo, the HCR-PT chairman, has forbidden counsellors to attend the debates with more than 5,000 new zaires in their pocket; that is, about 300 French francs. One is never too careful.

Papers Trade Accusations Over Bribing Deputies

AB0403222894 Paris AFP in French 1653 GMT
4 Mar 94

[Text] Kinshasa, 4 Mar (AFP)—Kinshasa newspapers close to both the opposition and the presidential group are reporting that money has been paid to members of the High Council of the Republic-Transitional Parliament (HCR-PT).

According to opposition newspapers, the money was distributed by supporters of the presidential group to "buy the consciences" of parliamentarians so as to disrupt deliberations at the HCR-PT and prolong the political impasse in Zaire. On the other hand, the

SALONGO daily, close to the former single party, the Popular Movement of the Revolution [MPR], charges that the opposition is distributing \$300 per head to "buy votes for Tshisekedi"

The HCR-PT has been meeting since 23 January to decide on the accords concluded between the presidential group and the radical opposition to extricate the country from its political and institutional crisis. Deliberations continued in commissions, and then resumed in plenary session on 28 February. Since then the meetings have remained blocked over a disagreement between the presidential group and the radical opposition on the future prime minister. The radical opposition supports Etienne Tshisekedi, elected prime minister by the Sovereign National Conference, but his appointment was later revoked by Marshal Mobutu. The Political Forces of the Conclave (FPC), which is the driving force of the

presidential group, wants the new prime minister to be chosen henceforth by the HCR-PT.

According to the opposition press, the FPC has been distributing money to encourage an "impasse" in the deliberations of the HCR-TP in order to bring about a new political crisis. Such a situation, according to the opposition, could allow Marshal Mobutu to arbitrarily choose a new prime minister from his camp.

This theory is contradicted by circles close to the FPC, which recall that the head of state himself had expressed a wish to see the future prime minister "come from the opposition" and that he has described the Birindwa government as "only a caretaker government." These circles also claim that radical opposition parties "are trying to rally their scattered troops with money to avoid a rout for Tshisekedi."

Kenya

Security Forces Seize Hijacked Saudi Airliner

AB0803224894 Paris AFP in English 2230 GMT
8 Mar 94

[Text] Nairobi, March 8 (AFP)—The hijacking of a Saudi airliner forced to land here while flying from Ethiopia to Saudi Arabia ended late Tuesday [8 March], the Saudi embassy said.

No details were immediately available about how the siege of the plane ended, but unconfirmed reports said security forces stormed the plane.

The hijackers seized the Airbus 300 earlier in the day and forced it to land here, where they freed all 159 passengers, leaving captive only the captain and co-pilot of the jet.

The airline, called Saudia, said the plane was flying from Addis Ababa to Jeddah when it was hijacked. But an official at the control tower of Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta airport said it was flying from Jeddah to Addis Ababa.

Airport sources said earlier that the plane was hijacked by three men who were demanding to go to Italy but the airline and the police would not confirm the report.

A Saudi embassy official had said one of the three hijackers was a woman and that the trio were demanding the plane be refuelled to fly to London.

Somalia

Another 200 Italian Soldiers Leave Mogadishu

LD0903115694 Rome RAI Due Television Network in
Italian 1045 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] Another 200 Italian soldiers have left Somalia. As the conclusion of the UN mandate approaches, all the international contingents are reducing their presence. Some 1,000 Italian troops remain in Mogadishu. The demobilization of the UNOSOM [United Nations Operation in Somalia] troops is taking place in a climate of intense fighting between warring factions that are still a long way from reaching any peace settlement.

Uganda

Arrested Opposition Leaders Released on Bail

AB0903090594 Paris AFP in English 2245 GMT
8 Mar 94

[Text] Kampala, March 8 (AFP)—Two opposition leaders arrested over the weekend and charged with sedition have been freed on bail, officials said here Tuesday [8 March]. Haji Badru Wegulo, chairman of the Uganda People's Congress (UPC) of exiled former President Milton Obote, and another official, Patrick Rubaihayo, were freed conditionally after appearing in court Monday, they said. They have been charged in connection with a document released by the party setting out its controversial manifesto for forthcoming elections to the constituent assembly.

The polls, scheduled for March 28 have been opposed for a number of issues. The UPC has in particular alleged that President Yoweri Museveni's National Resistance Army (NRA) was dominated by foreigners, mainly of Rwandan origin. Museveni has strongly denied the allegations, saying they were intended to insult him and to question his integrity.

Bophuthatswana Workers Strike Leads to Violence

Security Forces Cordon Off Townships

*MB0803141094 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1011 GMT 8 Mar 94*

[Text] Mmabatho March 8 SAPA—Civil servants in Bophuthatswana were on Tuesday [8 March] said to be massing for an anti-government rally at Lichtenburg, outside the homeland, later in the day.

Bophuthatswana defence force soldiers and police cordoned off townships around the capital Mmabatho on Tuesday in an attempt to prevent disgruntled government workers from attending a rally at the Mangope Stadium in Mmabatho.

Police were also moving into the nearby Rooigrond area, also believed to be beset by unrest.

Teachers in the independent homeland were out on strike on Tuesday and there was a sit-in by workers at the Health Department in Mmabatho.

The sit-in and occupation of the Bophuthatswana Broadcasting Corporation [BBC] offices was continuing to a lesser extent early on Tuesday afternoon after police had entered the building at about 11.30AM under a heavy screen of teargas.

A number of the workers committee members were arrested and led outside.

BBC Chairman Eddie Mangope, said to have been held hostage by the strikers, was in the boardroom at the BBC insisting it was business as usual and denying the hostage taking.

A work stoppage at the Mmabatho Sun Hotel has been planned for Tuesday afternoon, workers said.

Tear Gas, Live Rounds Used

*MB0803183594 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1748 GMT 8 Mar 94*

[By Lew Elias]

[Text] Mmabatho March 8 SAPA—Bophuthatswana on Tuesday [8 March] saw scenes of violence all around the capital Mmabatho with tear gas being used indiscriminately by the homeland authorities for most of the day. By late afternoon live rounds were being used in attempts to defuse a swell of action that started at the weekend when workers at the Bophuthatswana Broadcasting Corporation [BBC] joined the homeland civil servant strike.

On Tuesday the workers took over the BBC offices and held hostage Telecommunications and Broadcasting Minister Zebulun Masilo and BBC Chairman Eddie Mangope, son of the Bophuthatswana President Lucas Mangope.

Attempts to defuse the situation at the BBC led to a meeting between South African ambassador to the homeland, Prof Tjaart van der Walt, and President Mangope and his cabinet, who asked him to refrain from interfering. The Bophuthatswana government also accused SA [South Africa] Foreign Minister Pik Botha of meddling and inciting violence.

The offices of the BBC were occupied early on Tuesday and Prof van der Walt arrived shortly after 9am to try and negotiate to defuse the situation.

He was allowed to enter the sealed building and met Mr Mangope who said he would try and sort out the situation himself. Prof van der Walt told SAPA on Tuesday evening he had suggested to the Bophuthatswana government that it try and mediate with the host of disgruntled civil servants and try to reach an amicable solution.

The siege at the the BBC ended shortly after noon when homeland police entered the building and fired tear gas into areas where approximately 300 staff members were holding a meeting. Between 10 and 20 members of a workers' committee were arrested. Both radio and television broadcasts were blacked out for the whole day.

Teachers at most schools in the homeland joined the strike and pupils who gathered at schools were tear gassed.

Health services also suffered labour setbacks in most of Bophuthatswana on Tuesday and more work stoppages in the public sector are expected on Wednesday.

A rally at Rooigrond outside the town did not get underway and people returning from the area entered Mafikeng in cars, taxis, trucks and buses singing, shouting and whistling. This led to Bophuthatswana police and the demonstrators running up and down one of the town's main thoroughfares, Station Street, for most of the afternoon.

By late Tuesday station street resembled a war zone with garbage littering the streets as large, cylindrical cement dirt bins were rolled into streets, upended and used as barricades. At least one scratchcard kiosk was used for the same purpose.

The area around the station, in the vicinity of the ANC [African National Congress] offices, was also the scene of a number of fires—mainly of garbage and tyres. According to ANC organiser Nathaniel Ngakantsi the police were asked to stop "provoking violence" downtown. "The police provoked people by chasing them up and down the street.

"We asked the police to leave them alone but they kept on coming back," he said.

At one stage in the late afternoon reporters and ANC workers saw police firing a volley of live ammunition outside the ANC offices.

Police also fired live ammunition on the University of Bophuthatswana campus when they went there to stop a student protest in which the national flag was burnt. Bophuthatswana government spokesman Alwyn Viljoen denied that police used live ammunition or that the flag was burnt, despite a large number of witnesses confirming the events.

The situation in Mafikeng and Mmabatho was tense on Tuesday evening with a pall of black smoke hanging over Mafikeng. Burning barricades of rubbish were placed across the road in streets in Monstshiwa township where groups of youths, armed with rocks, stood on street corners.

There is fear of a rightwing backlash against the protesters and some reporters were mistaken for white rightwingers.

A source close to the Bophuthatswana government told SAPA that members of the Freedom Alliance had already offered "to help out" in Bophuthatswana. This could not be independently confirmed.

A number of journalists were manhandled by police and at least two camera teams had their film confiscated. The government spokesman would also not confirm these incidents nor would he confirm the high incidence of tear gassing that took place throughout the day.

ANC Issues 'Information Sheet'

MB0803150994 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1439 GMT 8 Mar 94

["Information Sheet on Bophuthatswana" issued by the African National Congress, ANC, Department of Information and Publicity on 8 March on the SAPA PR Wire Service]

[Text]

Message: Information Sheet on Bophuthatswana

Mmabatho - More than 600 Bophuthatswana Broadcasting workers are currently trapped inside the Bophuthatswana Broadcasting offices in Mmabatho. Reports reaching us now are that Bophuthatswana police are firing teargas into the offices. The situation remains tense with monitors fearing that lives might be lost.

Rooigrond - Civil servants resolved today at their meeting to make representation on their demands for reincorporation of the homeland, pensions and wages to the TEC [Transitional Executive Council].

Pampierstad - All secondary and primary schools in Pampierstad about 125 km from Kimberley are on a class boycott in support of civil servants' demands.

Government 'Deeply Concerned'

MB0803203294 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1949 GMT 8 Mar 94

[By Lew Elias and Raphael Banda]

[Excerpts] Mmabatho March 8 SAPA—The South African Government said on Tuesday [8 March] it was concerned at mounting unrest in Bophuthatswana where the embattled homeland government is confronted with escalating wildcat strikes and protests by civil servants over protection of their pensions. The decision on Monday by the homeland cabinet not to take part in the April election appeared to add fuel to the stoppages.

"The government is deeply concerned over the current unrest and its possible impact on South African citizens and interests and on the peaceful implementation of the election process," said a South African Government statement issued in Pretoria. It said South Africa was keeping a close watch on the situation in the homeland.

"The government has once again addressed an urgent appeal to the Bophuthatswana government to become a full participant in the constitutional process, including the proposed election," the statement said.

South African Defence Force members, meanwhile, conducted military exercises near Bophuthatswana borders, but defence spokesman Maj Merle Meyer said they were not to prevent the unrest spilling across the border.

The homeland government accused South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha of fanning unrest in Bophuthatswana and attempts by Ambassador Prof Tjaart van der Walt to mediate in a labour crisis at the homeland's Broadcasting Corporation were rebuffed.

After a day of police action against strikers in the homeland, the Transitional Executive Council [TEC] recommended financial strangulation of the government of President Lucas Mangope, cancellation of Bophuthatswana's diplomatic ties with Pretoria and other measures if the homeland flouted TEC directives. The announcement came hours after African National Congress [ANC] leader Nelson Mandela urged Pretoria to withdraw its seconded officials to force Mr Mangope to step down.

"I think we have now given him enough time. I have tried to reason with him (Mr Mangope) but it is clear he has no vision. Further pressures will be used and I have no doubt he will not be able to withstand them," Mr Mandela told students at the University of Venda.

In another development in a day of drama in Bophuthatswana, the Independent Electoral Commission [IEC] said an IEC delegation including chairman, Mr Justice Johann Kriegler, would travel to Bophuthatswana on Wednesday for talks with the homeland government.

As stoppages spread on Tuesday, strikers at the Bophuthatswana Broadcasting Corporation [BBC] held hostage BBC Chairman Eddie Mangope and Broadcasting Minister Zebulun Masilo at the corporation's offices. Eddie Mangope is President Mangope's son.

The hostage drama ended when homeland police stormed the building and fired tear gas at hundreds of workers who had taken virtual control of the corporation. The strike over pay cut radio and television broadcasts on Tuesday. Mr Eddie Mangope, who earlier had told South Africa's ambassador he would resolve the crisis on his own and did not need the intervention of the diplomat, was found in the offices unharmed.

Between 10 and 20 strike leaders at the BBC were reported arrested.

Later, Mr Eddie Mangope said in a statement the crisis had been resolved following talks with the strikers and the BBC would resume broadcasts on Wednesday morning. Confirmation of this claim could not be immediately obtained. [passage omitted]

Striking civil servants are demanding participation in the election process to ensure their pensions are protected under a new government. Mr Mandela said on Tuesday an ANC government would not seize the pensions.

On Tuesday scenes of violence were witnessed around the capital Mmabatho with teargas being used indiscriminately by the homeland authorities for most of the day.

The situation in Mafikeng and Mmabatho was tense on Tuesday evening with a pall of black smoke hanging over Mafikeng.

Burning barricades of rubbish were placed across the road in streets in Monstshiwa township where groups of youths, armed with rocks, stood on street corners.

There is fear of a rightwing backlash against the protesters and some reporters were mistaken for white rightwingers. A source close to the Bophuthatswana government told SAPA that members of the Freedom Alliance had already offered "to help out" in Bophuthatswana. This could not be independently confirmed.

A number of journalists were manhandled by police and at least two camera teams had their film confiscated. [passage omitted]

Electioneering Prohibited

MB0903122094 Johannesburg Radio South Africa Network in English 1100 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] The Bophuthatswana government has refused to accede to a request by the Independent Electoral Commission [IEC] to set up voting stations for South Africans in Bophuthatswana. It has also refused to allow electioneering in the state, and to allow monitoring of the election process. The Bophuthatswana government

refused to cooperate with the IEC at a meeting between the two parties at Mmabatho this morning. Bophuthatswana said that the IEC request would amount to acceptance of South Africa's nonrecognition of its sovereignty.

Meanwhile the streets of Mmabatho were the scene of further unrest this morning as clashes between Bophuthatswana police and striking public servants continued. Our reporter in Mmabatho said the town had been calm until midmorning when a long motorcade of protesters moved through the streets. Protesters were joined by students when they passed the university. Police in armored vehicles then moved in and fired tear gas.

In another incident South African Police stationed at the embassy in the capital had to intervene when an explosive situation developed between Bophuthatswana police and striking teachers outside the embassy building. The Bophuthatswana broadcasting center has been closed as a result of the strike by broadcasting workers.

Violence Continuing

MB0903123194 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1224 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Report by L. Elias]

[Text] Mmabatho March 9 SAPA—Clouds of teargas filled the air and gunfire could be heard in Mafikeng, adjacent to Bophuthatswana capital Mmabatho, on Wednesday [9 March] afternoon. Streets near the station erupted as Bophuthatswana police in Hippo armoured vehicles started firing teargas and live rounds. Reports that one pedestrian had been shot in a leg were being investigated.

Broadcasting Staff Dismissed

MB0903142994 Johannesburg Radio South Africa Network in English 1400 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] President Lucas Mangope of Bophuthatswana has dismissed all striking Bophuthatswana Broadcasting Corporation staff. Addressing striking workers this afternoon in Mmabatho, President Mangope informed the staff he had decided to close down the corporation. He told the staff he would make arrangements for the collection of employees' pensions and salaries.

Meanwhile, the situation in Mmabatho is volatile, following sporadic incidents of violence at the University of Bophuthatswana. Students stoned cars, mostly government cars, and the police used tear gas and rubber bullets.

Earlier the Bophuthatswana government refused a request by the Independent Electoral Commission to set up voting stations for South Africans in

Bophuthatswana. It has also refused to allow electioneering in the state and to allow monitoring of the election process.

The National Party [NP] says that President Mangope has betrayed most of the values in which he believes. The NP said the state had become the victim of an increasingly oppressive system. The party said that Bophuthatswana was a tragic example of what could happen when leaders made the wrong decisions.

Cronje Denies Bophuthatswana on Verge of Collapse

MB0803203694 Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network in English 2000 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] Freedom Alliance Chairman Rowan Cronje and Afrikaner Volksfront [Afrikaner National Front] leader Constand Viljoen say the current strike action by civil servants in Bophuthatswana is being fueled by forces outside the country for their own political purposes. They were speaking after holding talks in Mmabatho this evening.

Mr. Cronje quashed rumors that the Bophuthatswana government is on the verge of collapse. He claimed that the situation in the country was not as serious as it was portrayed in the media. Earlier today chaos erupted in the capital as the strike reached crisis levels. Estelle Pienaar reports on events outside the capital:

[Pienaar] With the tension reaching fever pitch in Mmabatho, the South African Defense Force [SADF] is on standby in nearby Lichtenburg. A shopkeeper in the town told us that a contingent of SADF troops had arrived in the town during the day. We went to investigate and found several Puma helicopters and a Dakota aircraft at the aerodrome. Curious town folk had gathered in the mealie fields surrounding the aerodrome to witness the event. With the Bophuthatswana police and military still staunchly supporting the Mangope government, and doing everything in their power to put down the riotous crowds, the SADF presence in the area might be a stern warning of what could lie ahead for Bophuthatswana if peace and stability are not restored soon.

Mandela Urges Security Presence Along Border

MB0803144994 Johannesburg Radio South Africa Network in English 1400 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] The defense force and police force of Bophuthatswana have cordoned off residential areas in the capital, Mmabatho, and have prevented people from attending a gathering in the city. Meanwhile, public servants have gathered for an antigovernment rally at Lichtenburg on the South African side of the border. Traffic ground to a halt in Mafikeng after a meeting in (?Rooigrond). Teachers and health workers have also

embarked on a strike and public servants have begun a consumer boycott against businesses owned by the government.

In a separate development, ANC [African National Congress] leader Nelson Mandela has asked the South African government to recall officials seconded to Bophuthatswana and to maintain a defense force presence on the border to monitor the situation. However, the defense force had denied that it has been deployed to prevent the unrest in Bophuthatswana from spilling over into South Africa.

Threatens ANC Pressure

MB0803204294 Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network in Afrikaans 1600 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] ANC [African National Congress] leader Mr. Nelson Mandela says his party will put pressure on Bophuthatswana in order to get the country to join the new South Africa. Mr. Mandela said, during the last leg of his election tour of northern Transvaal, that pressure must also be brought to bear on the government to force Bophuthatswana to change its views.

[Begin recording] [SABC correspondent Estelle Pienaar] Mr. Mandela said he is concerned over the situation in Bophuthatswana. He said he would prefer to resolve differences with Bophuthatswana President Lucas Mangope through dialogue, but it now appeared as though further talks would yield nothing.

[Mandela, in English] A great deal of pressure is going to be put on Mangope. I would have preferred Mangope to have agreed on a solution before he is forced to capitulate by pressures, but it appears now that that (?force) is inevitable.

[Pienaar] Mr. Mandela has now ended his election tour of Venda. It is still an independent state, but will soon become part of the new South Africa. This afternoon Mr. Mandela's tour of the northern Transvaal also came to an end. Tomorrow President F. W. de Klerk will follow Mr. Mandela's footsteps and visit the same province. [end recording]

AVF Says ANC Busing in Bophuthatswana Protestors

MB0903130594 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1241 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Report by E. van Wyk]

[Text] Pretoria March 9 SAPA—Most of those involved in the unrest in the Bophuthatswana capital of Mmabatho had been bused in by the African National Congress [ANC], Afrikaner Volksfront [National Front, AVF] leader Constand Viljoen claimed on Wednesday [9 March].

In a statement, Gen Viljoen accused the ANC/South African Communist Party alliance of deliberately destabilising the homeland with the full knowledge of the South African Government. "There is sufficient evidence to suggest that the majority of the people involved in the unrest in Mmabatho are bused in by the ANC."

The "sudden" military activity near the border by the South African Defence Force could also be seen as intimidation, the general added.

CP MP Blames Bophuthatswana Situation on ANC, NP

*MB0803145794 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1428 GMT 8 Mar 94*

[Report by E. van Wyk]

[Text] Pretoria March 8 SAPA—The destabilisation of Bophuthatswana was a communist textbook case and blame for the unrest should be laid at the door of the African National Congress [ANC], the National Party [NP] and the South African Communist Party, Conservative Party [CP] MP Tom Langley said on Tuesday [8 March]. In a statement he accused minister of Foreign Affairs Pik Botha and South Africa's ambassador to Bophuthatswana, Tjaart van der Walt, of flagrant interference in the homeland's internal affairs.

Mr van der Walt, "State President F W de Klerk's personal destabilising agent", should be recalled, Mr Langley said.

In an apparent reference to the Bophuthatswana cabinet decision to boycott the April elections, Mr Langley said: "Any action to promote unrest in Bophuthatswana is blackmail from the textbook of Messrs de Klerk, Botha and his boss, ANC President Nelson Mandela."

Problems in Bophuthatswana were deliberately being exaggerated by SABC [South African Broadcasting Corporation] television news and the media in an attempt to stimulate pressure from outside, Mr Langley claimed. Mr Botha's "gossiping" about the state on television and in the media was an attempt to "give body" to the destabilisation, he said.

"Mr Botha and the NP government have made a total mess of South Africa. He is now helping South Africa to become Azania...and yearns to do the same with Bophuthatswana."

AWB's Terreblanche Offers Armed Troops to Mangope

*MB0903144594 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1257 GMT 9 Mar 94*

[Report by E. van Wyk]

[Text] Pretoria March 9 SAPA—The Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging [AWB, Afrikaner Resistance Movement] has offered Bophuthatswana President Lucas Mangope

armed troops to ward off aggression from "inside or outside" the homeland, AWB leader Eugene Terreblanche said on Wednesday [9 March]. In a statement, Mr Terreblanche said: "The AWB has undertaken to provide President Mangope with any support he may need including, if necessary, physical force to prevent the communist rabble from turning Bophuthatswana into another African National Congress [ANC]-type Transkei tin pot state."

He expressed the AWB's concern at what he called attempts by the ANC/South African Communist Party/ (Foreign Minister) Pik Botha alliance to undermine and destroy the government of Bophuthatswana.

"Mr Botha was the same man who, four years ago, actually sped to the assistance of President Mangope when the communist rabble tried to overthrow the legal government of Bophuthatswana.

"It is a sad reflection on the National Party that they are prepared to stab their former loyal friends in the back in this despicable manner."

Seven Parties Submit Candidate Lists to IEC

*MB0903111994 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1043 GMT 9 Mar 94*

[Report by P. Bulger]

[Text] Johannesburg March 9 SAPA—Six parties had handed in candidate lists to the Independent Electoral Commission [IEC] by midday on the last day for registration, commission officials said on Wednesday [9 March].

The parties include the Merit Party, the Minority Front, the Ximoko [Whip of the Nation] Progressive Party and the Cape-based Workers International To Rebuild the Fourth International. The National Party handed in its list on Tuesday.

Commission officials confirmed that parties would be able to amend their lists, but that a provisional list had to be submitted by 4.30 PM on Wednesday.

Freedom Front Turns In List

*MB0903144894 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1435 GMT 9 Mar 94*

[Text] Johannesburg March 9 SAPA—The right-wing Freedom Front is set to contest the April elections.

Representatives of the front arrived at the Independent Electoral Commission's offices in Johannesburg shortly before 4.30pm on Wednesday [9 March] to submit its candidate list.

The front was registered by its leader Gen Constand Viljoen as a strategic option for the Afrikaner Volkfront [AVF, Afrikaner National Front] to obtain its "volkstaat" [homeland].

The front's representatives included Conservative Party MP Joseph Chiole.

The Freedom Front's decision took its Afrikaner Volksfront allies by surprise. AVF spokesman Steven Maninger said the decision would have an effect on the volksfront, but there was no difference between participants and non-participants in the elections on the viability of a volksstaat.

"They (the Freedom Front) also have the interests of the Afrikaner at heart," Mr Maninger said.

ANC, IFP Delegates End Meeting on Election Issues

MB0803153994 Johannesburg Radio South Africa Network in English 1400 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] Talks are to be held soon on the possible extension of tomorrow's midnight deadline for the submission of election candidate lists. This follows a meeting between the ANC [African National Congress] and the Inkatha Freedom Party [IFP] in Johannesburg today and a proposal made to the Transitional Executive Council in Pretoria this afternoon.

At the closed-door meeting between the ANC and the IFP, the two parties agreed to meet the chairman of the Independent Electoral Commission, Mr. Justice Johan Kriegler, tonight to discuss postponing the deadline tomorrow.

The ANC and the IFP held the meeting to discuss proposals that international mediation be used to break the constitutional impasse. IFP National Chairman Dr. Frank Mdlalose said the IFP had not yet compiled its list of candidates. Dr. Mdlalose added that progress had been made in today's talks and that the party delegates to the meeting will report back to their leaders before meeting again on Saturday [12 March].

Meanwhile Chief Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi has urged President F.W. de Klerk to endorse his proposals for international mediation. Dr. Buthelezi said it appeared that Mr. de Klerk was not happy with the idea of mediation.

PAC's Alexander Calls Off Talk of Pact With ANC

MB0803132194 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1226 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Report by C Molusi]

[Text] Johannesburg March 8 SAPA—Negotiations on a proposed election pact between the African National Congress [ANC] and the Pan Africanist Congress [PAC] have collapsed, PAC Secretary General Benny Alexander said in Johannesburg on Tuesday [8 March]. Mr Alexander said talks floundered after a media statement attributed to ANC President Nelson Mandela demanded a declaration of assets ahead of the election pact. "The

PAC will contest the election on its own, in its own name," he said. Mr Alexander said the ANC was pursuing the election pact as a merger between two companies, which indicated a lack of commitment on the part of the organisation.

COSATU Warns of 'Disaster' if Elections Postponed

MB0803140894 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1039 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Report by A Thomson]

[Text] Johannesburg March 8 SAPA—Postponing the elections would be a disaster, the Congress of South African Trade Unions' [COSATU] Central Executive committee said in a statement on Tuesday [8 March]. "The COSATU Executive Committee is totally opposed to any change in the election date, for whatever reason," the statement said.

"This date has now become carved in stone and it would be a disaster for our country if we allowed those opposed to progress to hold the elections hostage," it added.

The committee pledged the full support of COSATU and its affiliates to striking workers in Bophuthatswana. "We fully support the demands of people in that region for re-incorporation and free political activity, as well as the securing of their pension monies, which are not safe while in the grip of the corrupt (President Lucas) Mangope regime".

The committee said Mr Mangope's refusal to submit to the democratic process had left people in that region with no option but to bring him to his knees.

The committee also rejected the replacement of the South African Police by a private security firm at major airports. "At this crucial time it is highly irresponsible to allow such sensitive public institutions to become vulnerable to attack by forces opposing the democratic process. COSATU demands the immediate reversal of this decision," the statement said.

Mandela Tells Venda Rally No Afrikaner Homeland

MB0903073694 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2139 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] Nzhelele, Venda March 8 SAPA—Three South African Air Force Mirage fighters made a fly-past as African National Congress [ANC] President Nelson Mandela arrived on Tuesday [8 March] at Rabali Stadium at Nzhelele in Venda for a rally to mark International Women's Day.

About 100,000 ANC supporters from all over Venda attended the rally. Mr Mandela answered their numerous questions on ANC policy. He was asked what would become of uneducated Venda government office cleaners—who earn R140 [rand] a month—if the ANC

came to power. "All temporary government workers, unregistered labourers and low wages will come to a halt," Mr Mandela replied. Males and females with the same qualifications would get equal pay, he added.

On education, Mr Mandela said there would be free and compulsory education for all children for the next 10 years. Parents denying children their right to education would be prosecuted.

On the Afrikaner volkstaat [homeland] issue, Mr Mandela said Afrikaner Volksfront [National Front] leader Gen Constand Viljoen and Conservative Party leader Ferdi Hartzenberg would never see it.

"As long as I live there will never be a volkstaat and I assure you that the National Party [NP] will be buried after April 27. Vote for the ANC as the NP and F. W. de Klerk have been rejected by white voters, because when he calls a rally only 30 people attend."

AVF Responds to Mandela Claim

*MB0903124694 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1208 GMT 9 Mar 94*

[Report by E. van Wyk]

[Text] Pretoria March 9 SAPA—African National Congress [ANC] President Nelson Mandela's repeated statements that there will never be a "volkstaat" [Afrikaner homeland] only reinforce Afrikaners' determination to obtain a homeland, Afrikaner Volksfront [National Front, AVF] spokesman Stephan Maninger said on Wednesday [9 March].

In a statement, Mr Maninger said it appeared from Mr Mandela's utterances he had not considered the alternative. "We are convinced there will be a volkstaat, particularly once the ANC realises it is cheaper to accommodate the aspirations of the Afrikaner than to try to suppress us indefinitely," he said.

The only positive things about his statements were that he had increased Afrikaners' determination to obtain a volkstaat and mobilised them, he added.

Police Fire Rubber Shot at ANC Protestors at NP Rally

*MB0903093694 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0928 GMT 9 Mar 94*

[Report by E. Kemp]

[Text] Messina March 9 SAPA—Police on Wednesday fired rubber shot at a group of African National Congress [ANC] supporters protesting outside a stadium where National Party [NP] leader F.W. de Klerk addressed his followers. The protesters, who claimed they were invited by local NP supporters to attend the meeting, had earlier toyi-toyed [protest danced] and chanted slogans as Mr de Klerk's motorcade entered and left the stadium.

A small group of Pan-Africanist Congress [PAC] activists chanted the slogan "kill the Boer, kill the farmer" shortly before the police opened fire. It could not be established whether anyone was injured in the shooting.

Earlier, Mr de Klerk told about 300 supporters, most of them black, the NP was a party of peace and would ensure the rights of every South African. He accused the ANC of intimidating and threatening people in townships. "The NP will ensure that the policies of a new government of national unity will help build a better life for all South Africans," Mr de Klerk said.

PAC Calls for Inquiry Into Durban Train Crash

*MB0903075394 Johannesburg SAPA in English
2319 GMT 8 Mar 94*

[Text] Johannesburg March 8 SAPA—The Pan-Africanist Congress [PAC] has called for an inquiry to establish the cause of the train disaster near Pinetown in which at least 63 people were killed and 370 injured.

It said in a statement on Tuesday [8 March] that in the light of recent attacks on trains and railway facilities, "the concerns of our people must be addressed". The PAC expressed shock and grief at the disaster and extended its sympathy to the families of the bereaved. It also wished the injured a speedy recovery.

De Klerk Expresses Condolences for Crash Victims

*MB0903081894 Johannesburg Radio South Africa
Network in English 0500 GMT 9 Mar 94*

[Excerpts] Spoornet [rail network] has officially set the death toll after yesterday's train disaster at Marianhill near Durban at 63. The executive manager for Spoornet Metro-rail, Mr. Willie Strauss, said that a board of inquiry had been established to look into the matter. He said the Department of Manpower and the police would also investigate the accident. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, State President F.W. de Klerk has joined the ANC [African National Congress], the IFP [Inkatha Freedom Party], and the DP [Democratic Party], in expressing his condolences with the victims and their families.

The minister of transport, Dr. Piet Welgemoed, has also expressed his condolences and will visit the scene of the crash today.

Special Team To Investigate Air Force Weapons Theft

*MB0803175094 Johannesburg Radio South Africa
Network in English 1600 GMT 8 Mar 94*

[Text] A special investigation team has been appointed by the South African Police to investigate the weapons theft at the Voortrekkerhoogte Air Force base near Pretoria. The Air Force has confirmed that almost 50

light weapons were stolen from an arms depot. It is suspected that four people were involved and a joint investigation is being carried out by the military as well as the South African Police. The Air Force would not release further details, saying that this would hamper the investigation. Earlier SAPA reported that right-wingers were suspected of carrying out the theft.

TEC Measure Aims To Curtail Major Policy Changes

*MB0903050494 Johannesburg SAPA in English
2010 GMT 8 Mar 94*

[Report by Patrick Bulger]

[Text] Pretoria March 8 SAPA—The Transitional Executive Council [TEC] on Tuesday [8 March] approved a measure aimed at curtailing government's independence of action in the seven remaining weeks before the election. In a resolution after National Housing and Public Works Minister Louis Shill had appeared before a full sitting of the TEC, the TEC said it called on: "All government ministers and senior officials to earnestly comply with the provisions of the TEC Act and not to initiate substantial policy changes or actions which impact on the elections in any way".

The resolution directed Mr Shill "to suspend any actions" he had intended in terms of the housing scheme he announced on February 28.

Government delegate to the TEC, Constitutional Development Roelf Meyer, opposed the measure.

The TEC said that the government and National Party were "guilty of flouting sections of the TEC Act" and resolved "to direct the np government to stop forthwith abusing its position in order to gain advantage in the electoral process".

Mr Meyer said the TEC should be aware that there were other governments represented in the TEC besides the South African Government. Their actions would also have to bear scrutiny.

The TEC's move to curtail government's freedom of action provided the first seriously divisive issue to come between government and the African National Congress since the TEC's inception in December. ANC Secretary General Cyril Ramaphosa spearheaded the TEC move.

He produced a document that appeared to be the draft of an NP election pamphlet. The draft had "surfaced" in the office of Housing Department Deputy Director General Neville Karsen, he said. The draft contained details of how the NP housing plan—Mr Shill's scheme—would provide housing. Mr Karsen denied that any party political pamphlet had been produced in his office.

Mr Shill, insisting during his at times tense hour and a half hearing that the TEC was not the government, said afterwards he would implement his policy as planned. He had argued that the TEC had no jurisdiction over his actions.

In a bitter clash, Mr Ramaphosa again called Mr Shill "an arrogant minister". He said the NP had to be stopped from abusing taxpayers' money to its own electoral advantage. "They are riding on taxpayers' money to win an election that they are going to lose," he said.

Approves Peace Force Wage Adjustments

*MB0903081794 Johannesburg Radio South Africa
Network in English 0500 GMT 9 Mar 94*

[Text] The Transitional Executive Council [TEC] has approved salary adjustments for members of the National Peacekeeping Force. Salaries will range from 10,500 rands a month for a brigadier to 2,300 rands for a private. Members of the force who have been seconded will be paid directly by their units.

Meanwhile the TEC's subcommittee on defense has said a number of other issues, including living conditions and training, still have to be addressed.

Abolishes Detention Without Trial

*MB0903085794 Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network in
English 0500 GMT 9 Mar 94*

[Text] The Transitional Executive Council [TEC] has decided to scrap detention without trial. The TEC also agreed that all existing legislation be reviewed to see whether it catered adequately for the current security situation.

Urges Free Elections in Bophuthatswana

*MB0803183494 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1757 GMT 8 Mar 94*

[Text] Pretoria March 8 SAPA—The Transitional Executive Council [TEC] moved on Tuesday to compel the holding of free and fair elections in Bophuthatswana. South African Communist Party Chairman Joe Slovo said the government of President Lucas Mangope had clearly indicated that it would not join the electoral process.

However, people in the homeland had indicated that they wanted to take part in the election, he said.

The TEC called on Mr Mangope not to resist the progress towards a new dispensation and to commence co-operation with the Independent Electoral Commission [IEC].

The TEC recommended that if Mr Mangope did not comply with its directives, measures should be implemented including terminating diplomatic representation, terminating special financial arrangements that benefitted the government of Bophuthatswana, controlling the movement of Bophuthatswana government personnel in South Africa and securing the IEC in the execution of its duties.

The TEC said it would initiate direct contact with civil servants and security force members to plan for their

integration and the implementation of the new constitution if its directives were ignored.

Minister To Go Ahead With Housing Subsidy Scheme

MB0903122594 Johannesburg Radio South Africa Network in English 1100 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] Housing Minister Louis Shill says he will go ahead with his 90,000 million rand housing subsidy scheme despite the Transitional Executive Council's [TEC] order for him not to do so. The TEC ordered Mr. Shill to stop the scheme yesterday, accusing the government of abusing its position for electoral gain. However, Mr. Shill said the sole objective of his department was to enable people to obtain adequate housing. Mr. Shill is not required to comply with the order as it has no force or effect on the government.

Mr. Shill said the principles and details of the scheme had been negotiated with a wide variety of organizations over a protracted period. The scheme has been implemented within the current budget, and no new money had been allocated.

SACOB Reports Drop in Business Confidence

MB0903085194 Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network in English 1800 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] Business confidence is down, and political uncertainty is to blame. The South African Chamber of Business [SACOB] today released the latest confidence index, which reflects the mood of businessmen around the country. Jennifer Wilson reports:

[Begin recording] [Wilson] It's headlines such as these that are reflected in the February drop in business confidence. SACOB's business confidence index is over 1 point down, quite a significant drop, following on from last month's five-year high.

[SACOB Director General Raymond Parsons] The drop in the business confidence index was not entirely unexpected, if you take into account the political uncertainty in the past few weeks having had a negative impact on the business mood. But the more we can make the political process inclusive, the more we hold out the promise of political stability, so the chances that the South African economy could grow at 2.5 to even 3 percent this year improve, with the prospect of an even higher growth rate next year, if we get the politics right.

[Wilson] Another important economic indicator: the new car sales figures were released today. Car sales figures for February were 2 percent down on last year at the same time. It seems that the whole of the South African economy is adopting a wait-and-see attitude. But motor industry sources said today that they did continue

to expect a modest increase in new car sales figures for the rest of the year. [end recording]

South African Press Review for 9 March

MB0903112794

[Editorial Report]

THE STAR

Possible Clinton Whitewatergate Cover-Up?—Johannesburg THE STAR in English on 9 March in a page-14 editorial says "the virtues of Bill Clinton were being sung not long ago," but, "as so often in the past, America's heroes are shown up to have feet of clay." "There can be no doubt that what is called Whitewatergate is becoming unsavoury, but whether it's another Watergate—the cover-up that brought down President Nixon in 1973—only time will tell." President Clinton has assured Americans that his wife's "moral compass is as strong as anybody's in the country" but "clouding matters is a series of secret meetings on Whitewatergate between Treasury and White House staffers. Clinton had better hope that he will not be caught out on his 'no cover-up' promise."

BUSINESS DAY

Bophuthatswana 'Fiefdom is Crumbling'—"Only last month, the Bophuthatswana president was offered an opportunity by Nelson Mandela to surrender with dignity the sham independence his territory has enjoyed since 1977," notes a page-10 editorial in Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English on 9 March. Now President Mangope's "fiefdom is crumbling." "The only question is whether he will allow it to do so without bloodshed." "Mangope will probably not even listen to his old friend and ally [Foreign Minister] Pik Botha, who put on his usual performance of sweet reasonableness when he urged Mangope to face reality. Botha is now at pains to 'forget' that it was he who ensured that troops were sent in four years ago to prop up Mangope when he was last threatened by internal resistance. With only 50 days left in office, Botha has neither the will nor the resources to repeat his mistake."

SOWETAN

'Dilly-Dallying' Over Election Participation—Johannesburg SOWETAN in English on 9 March in a page-8 editorial says "rightwing groups are still dilly-dallying" about participation in the election, in Bophuthatswana "things are rapidly falling apart," while the National Party and the government "are lukewarm about international mediation to break the negotiations logjam." It is now time to "recognise the force represented by the vast majority of South Africa's people, who want to proceed with the poll from 26-28 April. Parties, groups and has-been bantustan politicians deliberately clouding the issues and placing stumbling blocks are toying with this force at their own peril."

Angola

Savimbi: No Sense in Making War While Talking Peace

MB0803192694 *Jamba Voz da Resistencia do Galo*
Negro in Portuguese 1900 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Report on interview with UNITA President Jonas Savimbi by unidentified Paris LE FIGARO correspondent in Huambo "recently"]

[Text] Dr. Jonas Malheiro Savimbi, National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] president, recently granted an important interview to France's prestigious LE FIGARO newspaper. He gave that interview in the city of Huambo, on the Angolan Central Plateau. Dr. Jonas Malheiro Savimbi noted that a peace accord should be secured as a matter of urgency because, in his words, 30 years of war is far too much and there is a need to avoid further bloodshed.

The president of UNITA also expressed the belief that Angola will enjoy peace in the future. In this regard, Dr. Jonas Malheiro Savimbi said that UNITA has made many concessions at the Lusaka peace talks.

At another point in his interview with the French newspaper, the president of UNITA noted that it was absurd to continue making war while peace talks are continuing. He said, quote, I am well aware that it makes no sense to make war while talking peace, unquote.

Looking back to the September 1992 elections, Dr. Jonas Savimbi said that responsibility for the failure of those elections must be laid at the door of all Angolan political forces, the West—which did not help—and the United Nations, which did not have the necessary ability to operate in a country as vast as Angola which, to add to the problem, had just come out of a 16-year war.

Government Reports UNITA Captures Ship Near Soyo

MB0803170194 *Johannesburg Channel Africa Radio in English 1600 GMT 8 Mar 94*

[Text] The Angolan authorities say they have lost contact with a ship apprehended by UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] forces in northern Angola, near the border with Zaire. Officials say the ship was transporting an unknown number of civilians, who had been prevented from disembarking. It is now docked at the (Cuanda) oil installations, near the city of Soyo, which is under UNITA's control.

UNITA Confirms Ship Captured

MB0803200794 *Jamba Voz da Resistencia do Galo*
Negro in Portuguese 1900 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] The war currently under way in Angola can only be blamed on the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola-Labor Party, MPLA-PT, of Jose Eduardo dos

Santos. The next few days do not seem to indicate calm for northern Angola in general and the oil-rich district of Soyo in particular. This is because the Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FALA] Military Command for the Northern Front has captured a package of top-secret documents that provide all the details concerning an offensive on Soyo planned by the coalition of People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA] and South African mercenary forces. Felix Miranda, the Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel, Vorgan, correspondent in northern Angola, reports:

[Begin Miranda recording] One of the pages of the aforesaid document says that the (?FAPLA) General Staff has recommended that General Caribu move, along with South African mercenaries, from Cabo Ledo, where a regiment of special forces has settled. Those forces have been involved in landing exercises, from the air and sea. Within this context, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] forces defending Soyo District have had the benefit of the visit by the supreme commander of the FALA forces for the Northern Front. He went to Soyo to place those forces on maximum alert. Given the involvement of the Union for Democracy and Social Progress, UDPS, a Zairian party, on the side of the MPLA-PT, the UNITA forces have had to redouble their vigilance along the common border with Zaire. [end recording]

The leadership in Luanda's Futungo de Belas Palace is preparing a major offensive against the strategic and oil-rich district of Soyo. The FALA Military Command for the Northern Front has top secret MPLA-PT documents which prove this.

Meanwhile, in Soyo today the Northern Front Military Command informed the Angolan and international communities that, for the first time in UNITA's history, the FALA forces have captured a large ship. This happened on 2 March. Felix Miranda, the Vorgan correspondent in the area, reports that the ship was sailing along the channels of Zaire River, in the vicinity of Soyo.

[Begin Miranda recording] The ship is called (Mitenupe). It has all the characteristics of a National Tugboat Company commercial vessel and it belongs to Mr. Jose Manuel Martins Caetano, who resides in Luanda. In accordance with the navigation authorization and the cargo lists, the ship left Luanda for Cabinda and was carrying assorted merchandise. Captain David Jose de Carvalho and Quartermaster Antonio Catraio said that when she arrived in Cabinda, she was diverted by the FAPLA Military Command for Cabinda and was given the mission to ferry fuel, uniforms, and other logistical equipment for the FAPLA forces. That equipment was supposed to have been offloaded at (Chissanda) island, after the ship had docked at Zaire's Matadi Harbor.

Meanwhile, one of the FALA units defending the Zaire River territorial waters used six combat boats to intercept the ship. After showing some reluctance to follow the orders being given by the captain of those forces, and

after an exchange of shots, the 350-ton and 40 meter long ship was successfully captured by the FALA forces. The ship and its occupants are now in FALA's hands in a safe area.

The FALA forces will defend Soyo to the best of their ability. To that end, they have been working to improve their combat preparedness, in defensive as well as offensive terms, involving air, land, or sea forces. The capture of the ship (Mitenupe) on 2 March is further evidence of the degree of effectiveness of our forces. [end recording]

This news from the northern region is of the greatest importance, not just because it is marvelous but, above all, because it refutes international media reports that suggested that the FALA forces had captured a ship carrying only civilians.

Government, UNITA Forces Clash in Moxico Province

MB0803204594 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 1900 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] While the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] is negotiating peace for Angolans in Lusaka, its soldiers here are still engaged in warmongering actions. In Moxico Province, for instance, the government forces killed more than 30 Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola elements when they tried to take over the city of Luena. Our correspondent Joao Calongue reports from the area:

[Begin Calongue recording] A total of 33 UNITA soldiers were killed by the government forces in Moxico Province yesterday following the destruction of some bases of that organization that served as a point of departure for provocations against government-held positions. This was revealed by a reliable source from the Moxico Independent Military Region, who added that in the mopping up operations yesterday, the government forces also destroyed a UNITA logistical base along the source of the (Lala) River, 185 km south of the city of Luena, and captured 11 AKM weapons, 27 clips of assorted ammunition, a RPG-7 rocket launcher, four boxes of cartridges, nine RPG-7 rounds, two sets of second lieutenant stripes, and one set of officer cadet stripes. The government forces' response comes at a time when UNITA is assembling means to take over the city of Luena at any time. [end recording]

Parliament Debates Budget, Action Program

MB0903084994 Luanda TPA Television Network in Portuguese 1930 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] The government's 1994 Economic and Social Program is being debated in parliament. A plenary session began this morning to deal with the program and the State General Budget.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Honorable deputy, do you agree with the 1994 program?

[Norberto de Castro, deputy for the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] I would like to say that it is evident that the government has made an effort to draw itself closer to a reality from which it had distanced itself. Nevertheless, it is an effort that leaves something to be desired. We believe that the program and the State General Budget have many weaknesses. Let us see if the majority comes to its senses during this plenary session and heeds the call of the minority and rectifies what we think is wrong.

[Correspondent] Are you confident the program will be adopted?

[Paixao Junior, vice governor of National Bank of Angola] Absolutely. I believe the program contains everything to warrant its approval.

[Miguel N'zau Puna, deputy for the Angolan Democratic Forum] As I see it, there are good prospects for the program to be adopted because we are in a minority. So, I think the budget will be approved. [end recording]

The plenary session only began at 1100 because yesterday's rain disrupted the communications system. Before the debates could take place, the opposition members of parliament wanted the government to present a report on the country's economic situation in 1993.

[Begin Castro recording] Mr. President, if you allow me, I would like to show you a resolution that effectively says there should be a report giving an account of the performance of the State General Budget for the third quarter of 1993, as well as the government's program of action for 1994.

Mr. President, regardless of whatever explanations that one can give, we have an illegality on our hands. Either the majority complies with what has been agreed or we will act in disregard of the assembly regulations. I have the document right here and if you so wish you can have it. [end recording]

Prime Minister Marcolino Moco was then forced to brief the opposition members of parliament. His explanations fell short of the deputies' expectations. Other deputies addressed the session, but the opposition appeared to be aloof when the agenda came up for voting. The opposition members of parliament did not take part in the voting. As the situation began to look complicated, Marcolino Moco delivered his speech in which he characterized 1993 as a catastrophic year for Angola's economic, social, and political life. He said the war was the main cause of the situation.

[Begin Moco recording] It has not been easy to monitor the ongoing political transition, not only because it is no easy task, but also because the war has created even more dramatic situations that should be taken into account when we decide on what course of action to follow. The ongoing political transition has affected the social behavior of our fellow countrymen who have grown tired, and in many instances despondent.

The government is committed to a prosperous nation, and a democratic and fair society. That, however, should also be the duty and goal of every citizen. To move decisively toward that goal, citizens ought to regain self-confidence, and to trust their own country. Unless we believe in the future and move together in building this new country, it will not be possible to fully overcome the current situation, and be sure that we will strengthen our position.

Mr. President and honorable deputies, there is an unanimous belief that inflation is the main cause of the prevailing economic crisis. Under the circumstances, the honorable deputies should rest assured that we will prevent hyperinflation from taking root in the country, even if we have to introduce the most drastic measures. The most cruel consequences of hyperinflation are felt by the most impoverished and hard-pressed layers of society. We are committed to that goal because we believe the fight against inflation is more than an economic goal, but rather an imperative and a social responsibility that ensures stability in our country.

Your excellencies, it has never been possible anywhere in the world to overcome a situation like ours without the sacrifices of all. [end recording]

The plenary session has adjourned until 1500.

Botswana

Masire Receives Visiting Zimbabwean President

MB0703175794 Gaborone Radio Botswana Network in English 1611 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Text] The president, Sir Ketumile Masire, and the Zimbabwean president, Mr. Robert Mugabe, have been holding talks at the office of the president. President Robert Mugabe is on a four-day state visit. The Zimbabwean delegation at the talks includes the foreign minister, Mr. Nathan Shamuyarira; the deputy minister of trade and industry, Mr. F. K. Moyo; and the Zimbabwean high commissioner to Botswana, Miss (Lucia Mudingire).

The Botswana delegation to the talks included the minister for presidential affairs and public administration, Lieutenant General Mompoti Merafhe; the minister for foreign affairs, Dr. Gaositwe Chiepe; the assistant minister of agriculture, Mr. Roy Blackbeard; and other senior government officials.

A state banquet will be held in honor of President Robert Mugabe at the Gaborone Sun Hotel this evening.

Mozambique

Renamo General Appeals Government To Release Funds

MB0703171894 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1030 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Text] Lieutenant General Mateus Ngonhamo of the Mozambique National Resistance [Renamo] has reiterated that if a number of difficulties—particularly shortages of funds—persist, the program for the formation of the new single Mozambican army will be seriously delayed, jeopardizing the multiparty elections scheduled for October. Ngonhamo has accused the government of not making available necessary funds for the formation of the various components of the new army, which will consist of government and Renamo soldiers.

[Begin Ngonhamo recording] We should not forget this program is facing serious financial problems. I am concerned by the government's slowness in dealing with our financial difficulties. We are tired of this slowness. It leads us to believe that there are people who do not want the new army to operate before elections are held in the country. If this situation persists, it will seriously affect the formation process, hindering the deployment of the army units in strategic areas. If the difficulties persist, it will not be possible to form the new army before the elections. It seems that the government has been alleging shortages of funds to deal with these issues, but the truth is that in this way it will not be possible to form the new army before the elections, as stipulated in the accord. We have two armies in Mozambique, and all their expenses would be included in the budget to be allocated to the Mozambique Armed Forces. We are facing serious financial problems, which include the instructors in Dondo District. How will it be when we have 2,500 infantry troops and other groups, such as the ones training in Nacala and Catembe in Maputo? What will happen? This situation will create a problem that only the government will be blamed for later on.

We held a three-hour meeting in Dondo recently to find the solution to these issues, but the government seems to be allergic when it concerns money. No one wants to assume the responsibility. Everyone is pointing fingers at the others, and important and urgent decisions are not being made. Since the country is structured and has a government, we appeal to his excellency, President Joaquim Alberto Chissano, Mozambican head of state, to intervene so that the funds for the training program are released. We also appeal to all leaders of political parties to assist us, not financially, but in discussions with the government. If the agreement is not fulfilled, elections in the country will be seriously affected. [end recording]

Unomoz Updates Troop Confinement Figures*MB0803184394 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network
in Portuguese 1730 GMT 8 Mar 94*

[Text] More than 440 government soldiers turned up at assembly areas throughout the country yesterday. According to the UN Operations in Mozambique's [Unomoz] daily report, the Mozambique National Resistance [Renamo] confined slightly more than 700 men to their assembly areas yesterday. The two sides have already sent a total of more than 39,200 men to the confinement areas.

Party Official on Challenges to Political Activity*MB0903090594 London BBC World Service in
Portuguese 2030 GMT 8 Mar 94*

[From the "London Last Minute" program]

[Text] In Mozambique, a dispute is under way between opposition parties and the government. A team representing 15 civilian opposition parties yesterday complained to President Joaquim Chissano that they have been largely left out of the process that will lead to general elections in the country in October of this year. In a memorandum delivered personally to the Mozambican head of state, the team accused the government of monopolizing the state budget. That document also said that the unarmed opposition faces such financial difficulties that it has not even been able to select its representatives in the electoral, provincial and district commissions. That document also accuses the Mozambique National Resistance [Renamo] of continuing to divide the country into two separate territories. This afternoon, we interviewed Inacio Chire of the National Convention Party, PCN. We began by asking him what difficulties the Mozambican civilian opposition is faced with at this stage.

[Begin recording] [Chire] In practice, everything remained as it was during the days of the one-party system. There have been no major changes in terms of posture, leadership, or governance by the Mozambique Liberation Front [Frelimo] government. Thus, it continues to be very difficult to be in the opposition in this country. This has been a very difficult task for Mozambicans willing to bring about changes in the country.

[Unidentified correspondent] What difficulties in particular?

[Chire] For instance, only five parties have installations in Maputo. No party has installations in the provinces.

[Correspondent] Which parties are you referring to?

[Chire] The PCN, the Mozambican Nationalist Movement-Mozambique Social Democratic Party, the Mozambique United Front-Democratic Convergence Party, the Mozambique People's Progress Party, and the Mozambique National Union. Although registered, the other parties have no installations. The parties I have

just listed have no installations in almost every province of the country. So, you can imagine the situation, particularly at a time when elections are due to be held in seven months' time.

There is also the question of funds. No party is entitled to draw funds from the State General Budget. The international community has made promises to give us funds, but there is nothing concrete. Only the Mozambique National Resistance [Renamo] has been receiving funds from the international community. Of course, the government has been using the State General Budget.

Other difficulties have to do with the structures of a democratic state. There are no division of powers. There is no clear-cut separation between the state and the ruling party. So, you can imagine what the consequences are. We have always stood for the separation between the pacification process—which includes the demobilization, confinement of troops, and selection of troops from the two sides for the new armed forces—and the training of a so-called nonpartisan army. There can be no nonpartisan or even a national army when its forces are drawn from two parties. It is an army that can be easily dismembered at any time. That is what the experiences in other countries tell us. So, we believe that that process should only be dealt with by Frelimo, Renamo, and the United Nations because they are more directly involved in the process. There is, however, the process of democratization and of transition to democracy. We believe civil society as a whole should be involved in that process, not only political parties, but also every grouping. Unfortunately, in Mozambique the Frelimo government still wants to conduct the process on its own. [end recording]

OAU Official Urges Patience With Peace Process*MB0803152594 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network
in Portuguese 1030 GMT 8 Mar 94*

[Text] OAU Secretary General Salim Ahmed Salim concluded his four-day visit to our country this morning. Shortly before leaving the Mozambican capital, that OAU official said he was hopeful that peace would become a reality in this country. Salim Ahmed Salim rejected the possibility that Mozambique might become a second Angola and noted that conditions in the two countries are rather different.

The OAU secretary general was seen off by Mozambican Foreign Affairs Minister Pascoal Mocumbi. At a meeting with representatives of donor countries in Maputo yesterday, Salim Ahmed Salim called on them to follow the Mozambican peace process with greater patience and understanding. He said, however, that he understood why the international community is applying pressure on the two sides for greater flexibility in the implementation of the General Peace Accord. The OAU secretary general noted that it would be important for Mozambique to continue receiving aid even after elections have been held. Salim Ahmed Salim assured the representatives of

the international community in Maputo that his organization will continue to be involved in the Mozambican peace process.

Zambia

Emergency Called Smokescreen for Economic Ills
MB0703114394 Johannesburg THE STAR in English
7 Mar 94 p 11

[Report by Joe Latakomo]

[Text] On March 5 last year, the Zambian nation woke up to the shock news that President Frederick Chiluba had declared a state of emergency and ordered the arrest of several opposition politicians, including the sons of former President Kenneth Kaunda, over plans to overthrow the government.

For many observers, the action was seen as a smoke-screen for the serious economic problems that the country faced as Zambia battled to extricate itself from the clutches of 27 years of a socialist economic and political regime. The fragility of newly democratic regimes was demonstrated once more with Zambia's example. Intervention by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund have not softened the impact of new economic and fiscal policies on the average Zambian, who had looked up to Chiluba and the Movement for a Multiparty Democracy (MMD) for economic salvation following their 1991 election victory.

For many, however, Chiluba has turned out to be a lameduck president. His opponents accused him of being unable, or unwilling, to deal with allegations of corruption and drug-dealing in government circles. And even his threat at the beginning of last year that 1993 would be the year of discipline within the party and government has done little to gain the confidence of Zambians.

Chiluba had warned that "inside the velvet glove was a fist of steel", when responding to a growing demand for clean and accountable government, but the only show of steel was against opposition members. Now into his third year of power following victory on the wave of pro-democracy sentiment that raced across Africa since 1991, time is running out if the MMD hopes to be returned to power in 1996.

So far, there has been very little tangible improvement in the lives of the people of Zambia. Indeed, for many, the situation has deteriorated. The price of consumer goods—including staple foods—has shot up, sometimes by as much as 200 percent. Inflation is racing away above 150 percent. Unemployment is rampant, and the privatisation programme that was seen as a cure-all, seems to have ground to a halt.

Nobody in government seems to have fully grasped the vastness of the financial resources required to make the programme work. Health services, education and roads

have deteriorated dramatically, and resistance to government expenditure on the "non-productive sector" has ensured the deterioration continues unabated.

Real per capita incomes are still low, and cuts in the bloated civil service have resulted in thousands of disgruntled civil servants, used to the patronage that derives from autocratic rule. This was the unkindest cut of all—and the opposition was quick to exploit this and other job losses and to extol the virtues of previous systems which at least guaranteed jobs and kept food prices artificially low.

Chiluba assured concerned donor nations that the state of emergency would not be kept in force "a day longer than is absolutely necessary." Late last year, these donors at the Paris Club made it clear they would not deal with Zambia unless the government fired those involved in drugs and other corrupt actions. A variety of Ministers were axed or resigned.

The backing by the unions helped Chiluba—and the MMD—into power, but now even the support of labour is doubtful. Some unionists are now opposed to continued association with the government, and one leader has even called on the unions to "stop prostituting themselves to both workers, capital and political leaders."

Was liberalisation pushed too fast for such a fragile economy? It seems so, and the dangers of unfulfilled expectations are quite obvious for those—including South Africa—now going the path of democratisation.

Zimbabwe

Infiltration by S. African Crime Syndicate Reported

MB0803144194 Johannesburg CITY PRESS in English
6 Mar 94 pp 1, 2

[Report by Zanele Vutela]

[Text] The notorious CCB [Civil Cooperation Bureau]—allegedly disbanded two years ago—is very much alive and has established a criminal empire in Zimbabwe, it was reported this week. The weekly FINANCIAL GAZETTE, an independent newspaper in Harare, reports that the Zimbabwean business community has been extensively infiltrated by about 600 criminals linked to the CCB.

The paper said that a crime syndicate, also linked to the Blue-Light Gang, was responsible for the exportation from SA [South Africa] to Zimbabwe of more than 600 stolen vehicles. The proceeds of the sales of the cars are believed to have been used to buy drugs which were then sold to finance the SADF's [South African Defense Force] covert military intelligence operations.

SA military intelligence was responsible for setting up the CCB. According to the paper the SA criminal syndicate was uncovered by the Zimbabwean security in early 1992. In June 1993 Kaarman Noortman, whose aliases include Malcolm Anthony Cheney and Jack Cheney and who was allegedly wanted at the time by the SAP [South African Police], was arrested. It quotes SA records revealing that Noortman was a member of the stolen vehicle division at John Vorster square until 1985, and that in 1993 he was wanted by the division for car theft and fraud. In July of the same year Noortman was handed over to SA immigration officials at Beit Bridge but according to the GAZETTE was "inexplicably let loose".

Intelligence sources also link Noortman to Frederick Alex Harding, regarded as the Blue Light Gang's Godfather and the CCB's operational chief in Zimbabwe until he was arrested and deported two years ago. It said that Harding, 50, was interviewed by the ANC [African

National Congress] last year shortly after he had allegedly admitted that he had been recruited by a SA government agency to carry out dirty tricks in neighbouring countries.

Harding is also alleged to have admitted that he had headed a car and drug-trafficking ring in the 1980s whose task was to procure funds for military intelligence-linked operations.

SAP Media Liaison officer Colonel B.S.I. Van Rooyen confirmed to CITY PRESS that Noortman was an SAP member, and was re-arrested shortly after being freed at Beit Bridge.

Although Zimbabwean sources suspect Noortman of being in Harare, Major Van Rooyen told CITY PRESS that Noortman was currently awaiting trial at the Pretoria Central Prison.

Benin

Observers Follow Joint French Military Maneuvers

AB0803220794 Cotonou Office de Radiodiffusion-
Television du Benin Radio in French 1930 GMT
8 Mar 94

[Text] French-Beninese military maneuvers kicked off today at Dogbotota in the Mono Region. These military exercises, codenamed Aheme 94, have brought together about 700 Beninese and 400 French troops. Large technical equipment has been deployed for these exercises. They include three (F-5) Mirage planes, warships, and helicopters. Today's activities, which centered on dropping of Beninese and French paratroopers, took place at Dogbotota with curious local inhabitants looking on. Observers from Nigeria, Burkina, Togo, and Niger are following these maneuvers.

General Strike Begins; '75 Percent Effective'

AB0703173994 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French
1215 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Text] We start this newscast with Benin where all government offices have been paralyzed since this morning—the first day of a renewable 72-hour general strike. The action was launched by 10 of the country's labor union federations which are demanding a minimum salary increase of 30 percent to compensate for the loss of purchasing power following the devaluation of the CFA franc. The strike is said to be 75 percent effective, and is taking place in an atmosphere of absolute calm. From Cotonou, Ange-Hermann Gname reports.

[Begin Gname recording] Government offices, schools, customs offices, the main post office, and some parastatal offices have complied with the 72-hour strike order issued by the Federation of Beninese Workers' Unions, and have done so in absolute calm. This morning, the few workers who turned up at their workplaces either went to provide minimum services or to see for themselves the absence of their colleagues from work. Since this morning, the national radio has only been broadcasting a very light program which has not exceeded two and a half hours of air time. Policemen have been guarding the deserted government offices against any possible acts of vandalism. The Agency for Air Navigation Safety in Africa and Madagascar has also joined the strike and there was no movement of planes this morning at the Cotonou International Airport. Only a minimum service permitted the flight by a Nigerian military aircraft of President Nicephore Soglo—chairman of the Economic Community of West African States—to Liberia, where he is supposed to chair the inauguration ceremony of the new democratic institutions in Monrovia today.

As we can see, the strike order has been well followed by the workers at a time when the Cotonou government is

having a lot of difficulty in easing the social tension which has worsened since the devaluation of the CFA franc. [end recording]

Cote d'Ivoire

Gabonese Envoy Meets With Bedie, Delivers Message

AB0603141094 Abidjan Radio Cote d'Ivoire Chaine
Nationale-Une Network in French 1230 GMT 5 Mar 94

[Excerpts] The head of state, President Henri Konan Bedie, received Dr. Jean-Pierre Okias, the personal representative of President Elhadj Omar Bongo, this morning. He was accompanied at the audience by Lambert Kouassi Konan, the Ivorian minister of agriculture. Dr. Okias came to discuss the active integration of our two economies. Here are more details from Dr. Okias:

[Begin Okias recording] We had the honor to be received by President Konan Bedie and we held lengthy discussions. I delivered a message from his brother and friend Alhadj Omar Bongo of Gabon. I am not allowed to disclose the exact contents of this message, but at least one part of the message can be retained, pertaining to the economic and trade issues contained in the message. [passage omitted]

Cote d'Ivoire is one of those African countries which has achieved self-sufficiency in food production. Gabon needs to have closer ties with Cote d'Ivoire to discover in what sectors we can develop relations, so that the Gabonese housewife's shopping bag remains full. [passage omitted]

It is up to us to take advantage of what food already exists in quality and quantity. Later, we will base our policy on the Ivorian experience to help us develop our agricultural sector. As you know, Gabon—due to its specific climate, its semi-tropical geography—has always based its economy on its industry, land and minerals. With the Ivorian experience, and the parallels in trade in existing products, we will benefit from your experience and learn how to sow our own seeds both in quantity and quality. [end recording]

'Positive' French, Ivorian Military Exercises End

AB0803161594 Abidjan La Chaine Une Television
Network in French 2000 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Excerpts] Our special envoy, Joachim Yao Ouattara, reports on the French-Ivorian military maneuvers taking place in our country.

[Begin recording] [Ouattara] The only way to make an Army combat-ready is to test it regularly on the field. For this reason, Ivorian troops and units of the French Army have been carrying out military maneuvers. The operation, codenamed Nzi 94, has a number of objectives: It is one of many implementations of the defense accord linking Cote d'Ivoire to France since the dawn of our

independence; it is also to train the general staffs in the joint preparation and conduct of operations; and finally, it gives the troops a chance to operate together and to organize the implementation of a unified French-Ivorian command for operations in time of need.

For these military exercises of national importance, after a 10-year hiatus, the chief of defense staff of the Armed Forces of Cote d'Ivoire [FANCI], General Robert Guei, has set very precise goals for his men: to train the general staff to function within a tactical framework; to test the aptitude of military units to rural life and parachuting operations; and to utilize the know-how of signal officers to integrate them in the inter-allies command structure and maneuver network.

On the first day, we witnessed the parachute operation undertaken together by Ivorian and French parachutists. This operation took place under very good conditions.

[Guei] I am happy that everything went smoothly. Our French brothers-in-arms have just had a 10-hour flight and joined in the thick of the operations. You have witnessed the demonstrations. They were very well equipped; the French command was keen to put them in extremely difficult conditions. In the battlefield, nothing is left to chance, and when you leave things to chance the enemy will not spare you. This is why they have come fully prepared. I wish you all the best.

[Unidentified French commander] The parachute operation we have watched, undertaken by French and Ivorian parachutists, was carried out under very good operational conditions; and I am talking as a former commander of the 11th Parachute Division. These were difficult conditions because the terrain is not easy and it is hot, but this enables us to test our joint capacity for a common engagement. And I think that is what is important. For me, the operation has been positive. [passage omitted]

[Ouattara] The crossing of the Zambaco bridge enabled the battalion of the Bouake Engineers Regiment to test its light crossing equipment. Their performance no longer requires any further demonstration.

The naval exercise took place on the Rhin, a French TSM mobile support vessel, originally intended to maintain the different units of the French fleet in operational condition. The Rhin was built on 24 April 1961, launched on 17 March 1962, and has been in service since 1 March 1964. It has a crew of 11 officers and 67 naval officers. During the exercise, three French Mirage F-16 planes, shot at a floating object which was pulling along behind the Rhin. Between an Ivorian patrol boat, the Elephant of the Ivorian Navy, and the Rhin, shooting exercises and mail transfer took place.

During air support and tactical exercises, which Defense Minister Leon Konan Koffi witnessed, troops engaged in mock confrontations and war games. [passage omitted]

[Koffi] We are here to witness the confrontation between enemy troops and our soldiers and we have seen that despite a few technical radio problems the operation was carried out under very good conditions. Our forces succeeded in dislodging the enemy forces. I am happy to have witnessed this operation.

[Ouattara] There was a big surprise at the end of this maneuver. On behalf of the Higher Council of the FANCI, General Robert Guei, the chief of staff, conferred on Minister of Defense Leon Konan Koffi the rank of honorary sub-lieutenant for his services to the nation. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Ghana

Officer Killed, 2 Others Wounded in Attack

AB0803223794 Accra Ghana Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in English 1800 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Excerpt] Another military officer has been killed and two others wounded when an armed group fired at their vehicle at Bunjanya near Salaga last Thursday [3 March]. This brings to four the number of soldiers killed in the ethnic conflict which has been raging for the past six weeks in the Northern Region. Lieutenant Colonel Richard Debrah, task force deputy commander in charge of operations, said the military vehicle with seven soldiers on board was returning to Tamale from Salaga with some arms seized in the conflict when it was ambushed and fired on, resulting in the death of the officer. When the soldiers returned fire the attackers ran into the bush. Lt. Col. Debrah said the attack on the vehicle was intended at getting the military hardware it was carrying. [passage omitted]

Liberia

UN Mission Chief Says Fewer Factions Need Disarming

AB0803180894 Paris AFP in English 1512 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] Monrovia, March 8 (AFP)—The number of Liberian faction fighters needing to be disarmed under the peace plan ending four years of civil war has been halved, UN observer mission chief Daniel Opande disclosed here on Tuesday [8 March].

The original estimate had been 60,000, comprising men under arms with the National Patriotic Front of Liberia [NPFL] of Charles Taylor, its main rival the United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia [ULIMO], and soldiers of the armed forces serving the interim government. But latest figures supplied by the three factions gave the NPFL and ULIMO 10,000 guerrillas each and the army slightly fewer, General Opande said.

The new figure of some 30,000 was more realistic, since a ceasefire had been in force since last July and units had disbanded to return to civilian life, Opande said.

Opande, a Kenyan officer, is head of a 300-strong UN observer mission supervising the disarmament, which is being carried out by 20,000 troops from eight African countries comprising a monitoring group, Economic Community of West African States Cease-Fire Monitoring Group [ECOMOG], stationed in Liberia by the Economic Community of West African States. ECOMOG, then 4,000-strong, was first deployed here in mid-1990.

According to UN estimates, 150,000 people were killed in the years of fighting, and a further 700,000 fled the country. UN special representative Trevor Gordon-Somers, speaking to the press after Opande, said he expected 60 percent of the refugees to return home "spontaneously" in the coming two to three months. He has a budget of five million dollars for resettling the combatants and restoring ruined villages.

After months of wrangling among the factions, aggravated by internal feuding, a five-member collective presidency, the state council, was sworn in on Monday to prepare for a general election next September.

Disarmament Process Described

AB0903115094 London BBC World Service in English
0600 GMT 9 Mar 94

[From the "Network Africa" program]

[Text] Disarmament in Liberia has begun. Many people will say that the real peace process is finally under way. Yesterday we heard the commander of the UN Observer Mission in Liberia, General Opande, saying he had been on a tour and had seen former fighters handing over their weapons. However, in this report from Monrovia, the BBC's West Africa correspondent, Ofeibea Quist-Arcton, shows that not all the fighters are disarming.

[Begin recording] [Quist-Arcton] Two truckloads move in the Schieffelin Camp, outside Monrovia, packed full of soldiers from the Armed Forces of Liberia [AFL], the nominally national army which in the minds of many Liberians will always remain associated with the horror and killings of the civil war. But at Schieffelin they seemed ready and even eager to give up their weapons to ECOMOG [Economic Community of West African States Cease-Fire Monitoring Group] and shake off that damning legacy.

Under the watchful eye of the ECOMOG chief of staff, Brigadier Samuel Victor Malu and UN military observers, the Nigerian camp commandant at Schieffelin gave orders to the Liberian soldiers as disarmament began.

[Unidentified camp commandant] Attention! Do you understand me? I want you to face me, this way. That's how I want it.

[Quist-Arcton] In turn, the Liberian colonel told his men what to do—a slight confusion between Nigerian English and Liberian English. Guns were neutralized and bullets discharged from magazines before the AFL chief lined up a large stock for registration and cleaning. They were a ragtag collection of men, many young; some in proper military uniform, others inadequately dressed in threadbare clothes and rubber slippers after years at war. How does it make you feel?

[Unidentified soldier] I feel happy.

[Quist-Arcton] Why?

[Soldier] Because we have been fighting since 1991 and the war is coming to an end, and that is why I am happy when they say we are disarming.

[Quist-Arcton] Do you think that peace will be lasting in Liberia?

[Soldier] Yes, peace will be lasting in Liberia

[Quist-Arcton] Nobody in Liberia had any illusion that disarmament would be (?smooth) or easy, and they were right, and camping and disarming the Armed Forces of Liberia is just the first step and probably the simplest. ULIMO [United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia] and Charles Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia [NPFL] are still officially under arms.

[Unidentified military officer] About-turn! About-turn! Turn about, turn about!

[Quist-Arcton] Visiting the NPFL encampment site of Kolela near Kolela yesterday, about 50 miles north of Monrovia on the road to Taylor's Gbarnga headquarters, we got the impression at the Tanzanian ECOMOG troops in charge that everything was set to receive Taylor's fighters and their weapons. The mainly young troops milling around the camp seemed ready too waiting for the word from their boss but I am told that Charles Taylor is not taking any chances, indicative of the continuing mistrust among Liberians. Taylor is waiting before he gives the order for his boys to disarm. Of course, he is waiting for ULIMO, or so I am told. The very public split and the power struggle in the ULIMO leadership is causing the latest delay in the Liberia peace process.

Nigerian ECOMOG military commander, General Henry Odopu, is responsible for the areas that include Toby, one of the encampment sites allocated to ULIMO.

[Odopu] Now there is a problem with leadership. Everything has been put into place. The camp has been set up and the ECOMOG soldiers have taken their positions, and we have.... [pauses] The boys, in fact are ready to move in there. There are some minor problem within ULIMO, and it is that minor problem that ECOMOG headquarters is trying to resolve, and the moment it is resolved, they will move in. I can be very sure of that.

[Quist-Arcton] Gen. Odopu added that he wanted to be sure that ULIMO troops with different loyalties would not clash in camp once they have been disarmed, and he said he wanted that matter sorted out before hand. [end recording]

Benin's Soglo, UN Envoy Address New Council

*AB0803125094 Monrovia Radio ELBC in English
0900 GMT 8 Mar 94*

[Text] President Nicephore Soglo of Benin has expressed gratitude to persons who have facilitated the Liberian peace process by enormous sacrifices in both human and material, as well as (?active) solidarity and brotherhood. President Soglo, who is also current chairman of ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States], commended the United States in particular for its financial contribution and political support which have helped overcome the menace of (?various) difficulties on the road for peace.

President Soglo was speaking yesterday at the Centennial Memorial Pavilion in Monrovia during the installation of the five-man Council of State. He thanked the international nongovernmental organizations for providing humanitarian aid to the Liberian people victimized by the civil conflict. The Beninois leader paid tribute to the memory of the ECOMOG [ECOWAS Cease-Fire Monitoring Group] peacekeepers who bravely fallen on the field of honor as well as those Liberians who lost their lives during the senseless fratricidal war. He urged Liberians not to allow this to happen again. In his words, it is up to you Liberians to ensure [words indistinct] never again become the enemy of love but a friend, and that anybody [passage indistinct].

Also speaking at the ceremony, the special representative of the UN secretary general, Mr. Joseph Mills, said the United Nations secretary general, Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali, attached great importance to the occasion. The UN secretary general observed that after years of civil strife, the establishment of the National Transitional Government was a significant step toward the return of peace to Liberia. The assumption of the office of the Liberia National Transitional Government, he added, should bring an end to the division of Liberia in separate administrations.

The UN boss paid special tribute to ECOWAS for its longstanding and (?conclusive) efforts towards bringing peace to Liberia. He also [words indistinct] contributive efforts of ECOMOG for their perseverance in their mission. According to the UN secretary general, disarmament will be carried out by the ECOMOG in keeping with the Cotonou accord. He said it is up to Liberians themselves to pursue the peace process and ensure that order and stability returned to the country.

Mali

Konare Receives Algerian Foreign Minister

AB0903110194 Bamako Radiodiffusion-Television du Mali Radio in French 0700 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] Algerian Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri was received by President Alpha Oumar Konare and Prime Minister Ibrahim Boubacar Keita yesterday. Mohamed Salah Dembri delivered a message from Algerian President Liamine Zeroual to President Konare. His discussions with the Malian leaders centered on the internal situation in Mali and Algeria and on major subregional issues.

[Paris AFP in French at 0802 GMT on 9 March, in a Bamako-dated item, adds: "Malian President Alpha Oumar Konare held talks yesterday with Algerian Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri on the Tuareg issue. Their talks focused mainly on obstacles to the implementation of the national peace pact signed in April 1992 between the Malian Government and the Unified Movement and Front of Azaouad, MFUA, whose guarantor is Algeria. MFUA has called for Algerian participation in a meeting in Bamako on the integration of former rebels into the regular Malian Army. This appeal comes at a time when divisions within the Tuareg movements who signed the peace pact have led to the death of four Tuaregs including Colonel Bilal Saloum, one of the main architects of the peace pact."]

Tribal Attack on Senegalese Border Reported

AB0703223194 Bamako Radiodiffusion-Television du Mali Radio in French 2030 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Text] There is insecurity in the First Region. According to a statement from the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Security, the peaceful people of Samba Dramane hamlet yesterday between 0630 and 0700 GMT were waken up by gunshots by 17 Peul aggressors coming from Senegalese territory. This attack, the statement said, left four victims including two inhabitants from the Segui village—one hawk and one inhabitant from Samba Dramani hamlet. The Samba Dramane self-defense brigade pursued the assailants who left obvious footprints in their retreat. These footprints led to Jagi hamlet situated on Senegalese territory where all the inhabitants are of the Peul tribe. The Senegalese security forces went to the area and arrested members of the Samba Dramane self-defense brigade.

The regional and local administrative authorities are now on the spot and are actively preparing the meeting which our minister of territorial administration and security and his Senegalese counterpart will hold on Wednesday 9 March. These two officials met on 13 January at Bakool. According to latest reports, following the meeting of the governors of the two border regions in Kidira and upon instructions by the Senegalese authorities, these Malian citizens will be handed over to the Kayes governor this evening.

Opposition Parties Comment on Education Crisis

AB0803152094 Bamako Radiodiffusion-Television du Mali Radio in French 0700 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Text] The political parties signatory to the open letter sent to the president of the Republic on 21 February held a news conference at the Amdalaye Islamic Center yesterday. The discussions centered on the current education crisis, violence, and freedom of the press. Siaka Konate has the details:

[Siaka] The education crisis and the violence it engendered were at the center of this news conference. (Ameyi Dicko) of the Union for Democracy and Development gave a lot of information on the causes of the crisis and the opposition's contacts with the government aimed at ending it.

For his part, Ousmane Edmond Traore of the National Committee for Democratic Initiative [CNID] made suggestions aimed at ending the violence.

[Begin Traore recording] It is necessary and compulsory to release the students who were arrested, namely the Association of Malian Students and Pupils [AEEM] activists who were recently arrested. We condemn their acts of vandalism and violence but we call for their release since peace in this country is priceless. Also, we call on the AEEM and even demand the AEEM to stop its acts of vandalism because vandalism has never solved any problems.

We appeal to the government for multilateral dialogue as the AEEM no longer trusts the government. Since the association no longer trusts in negotiations, it is forced to obtain some guarantees and such guarantees are the other social forces. There is a need for multilateral dialogue to put an end to confrontation and misunderstanding due to mistrust. [end recording]

The CNID official also condemned what he described as verbal threats uttered by some top state officials, the excesses of the security forces, and the behavior of private militias. Concluding, he denied that the AEEM was manipulated by the opposition, adding that the AEEM is manipulated by its own problems.

For his part, the PSP [Progressive Sudanese Party] representative called for a national debate to be attended by all the social partners to help end the crisis. According to Ousmane Dicko, this debate which will aim at restoring social peace as well as security of goods and people will tackle all the nation's major problems, namely the education crisis, fraud, insecurity, structural adjustment, and so on.

Another issue discussed at this news conference was press freedom. The related paper was read by Ibrahim Diakite of the National Front. After stressing the media's role in the advent of democracy in Mali, the official said government is stifling press freedom. In this regard, he denounced the closing down of Radio Kaira, the censorship in force at the radio and television broadcasting

corporation, and the lack of statutes for independent radios. He therefore made some suggestions to safeguard press freedom.

[Begin Diakite recording] We suggest, first, the presence of media practitioners elected by their colleagues, representatives of the Malian Association for the Defense of Human Rights and of the Malian Bar Association within the national committee on equal access to state media. Second, we suggest the extension of the committee's responsibilities beyond the period of electoral campaigns. The opposition wants the Higher Communication Council to include media practitioners elected by their colleagues. It calls for the division of the Malian Press Agency into three different directorates: First, a directorate of publications for ESSOR, PODIUM, and so on; a directorate of the news agency in charge of gathering news; and a directorate of advertisement. Finally, the opposition calls for the review of the provisions of the law on the media and related offenses. [end recording]

Niger

Government Determined To 'Safeguard' Unity

AB0603152694 Paris AFP in French 2254 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Niamey, 4 Mar (AFP)—As an implicit reaction to the demands to self-determination by Tuareg rebels, the Niger Government today expressed its "determination to safeguard national unity, territorial integrity and the unitary form of the state."

In submitting its report to the cabinet meeting, Government Spokesman Mactar Diallo reiterated the government's "willingness" to maintain dialogue and called on his fellow citizens to continue to "examine with serenity" the demands made by the Coordination of the Armed Resistance [CRA], the leading organ of the Tuareg rebellion.

Regarding the prospect of the negotiations that are to resume at the end of March in Paris, the CRA demanded last month the right to manage, as autonomous territories, those parts of the country it is claiming in the north on behalf of the Tuareg community (10 percent of the population). The CRA also demanded quotas that would guarantee the representation of Tuaregs within the government, the National Assembly, and the National Armed Forces.

This reaction, the first from the government since the publishing of the demands by the CRA, follows that of the opposition, which rejected on 2 March "all maneuvers aimed at dividing the country."

Several associations and trade unions also made their stand clear against the CRA demands.

Ousmane Rejects Rebel's Demand for Partition*AB0703180894 Niamey Voix du Sahel Network in French 1900 GMT 6 Mar 94*

[Excerpt] Congolese President Pascal Lissouba made a technical stopover at the Niamey Airport. He is on his way to Paris to where will pay a working visit. He was met by President Mahamane Ousmane. Responding to questions put to him by the press, President Mahamane Ousmane spoke about the demands of the armed rebellion. According to him, Niger is one and indivisible and its partition is unacceptable. He, however, asserted his readiness to pursue the dialogue to find a solution to the armed rebellion. Here is the head of state's position.

[Begin Ousmane recording] As the president, guarantor of national unity, guarantor of the integrity of the national territory, and guarantor of the Constitution, naturally, my position is that this is unacceptable. Niger is one and indivisible. Once and for all this must be made clear to all the sons of this country. The various demands made have now been transmitted to the various institutions of the state and to the various active forces of the nation to inform the public about their contents and also make their contributions in the form of proposals and suggestions for the holding of future negotiations. Naturally, the demands submitted by the Coordination of the Armed Resistance is a maximal position. It is just a negotiating position. This does not mean that they will stick to this. We know this very well, but it must be clearly understood that Niger is one and indivisible. It is one country. In fact, in the organization and management of the affairs of the state, there are forms and modalities which call on all the citizens of this country to be in charge of the administration of their own affairs at the various levels—at the local, subregional, regional, and national levels. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Parliamentary Groups Reject Rebel Demands*AB0803104594 Niamey Voix du Sahel Network in French 1900 GMT 7 Mar 94*

[Excerpts] The National Assembly resumed sitting this morning to continue examining the demands of the rebels, which they began discussing on 4 February. The various parliamentary groups, which used the weekend to examine the document, disclosed the results of their discussions at the plenary session. Moussa Amagni has the details.

[Begin Amagni recording] The various parliamentary groups—the opposition as well as the majority group—after reading and analyzing the rebels' demands in serious and deep tones commensurate with the nature of this type of debate, rejected all the rebels' demands outright for several reasons. For some of them, the document is based on [word indistinct] and unfounded, while for others the document is aimed at partitioning Niger and is based on hegemony. It is neither formal nor

constitutional. It is, antinationalistic, unpatriotic, and antirepublican. [passage omitted]

Much as the parliamentary groups condemned the contents of the document of the armed rebellion, they all called upon the government to lay a concrete basis for future negotiations. Essentially, they all urged the government to do everything possible to restore peace, calm, security, and harmony in Niger. The various groups made several suggestions to this end. In the meantime, the maturity of our people and their traditional vigilance must (?guide) us to nullify all attempts to plunge our country into the abyss of division, racial, and ethnic hatred. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Press Sees French 'Plot' Behind Tuareg Rebellion*AB0403212694 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 1215 GMT 4 Mar 94*

[Text] France is coming under severe criticism in Niamey, where political circles suspect it of encouraging separatism. The right claimed by the Tuareg rebellion to autonomous administration of the country's northern regions strongly opposed by opposition parties and black Tuaregs, who see Paris' hands in the separatist resolve of the Tuaregs. Jean de Dieu Ndong Ovono reports:

[Begin Ovono recording] Public opinion in Niger is traditionally hostile to the Tuareg community, which represents only 10 percent of the country's population, and the Niamey press, of course, echoes this. The paper to cast the first stone was SAHEL DIMANCHE, the government daily, which accused France of wanting to relaunch its colonial dreams to create a common organization of Saharan regions. This was an old dream for Paris, which wanted to make the Sahara a single entity so as to gain control over a region it saw as part of its sphere of influence. The Saharan part of Niger has enormous mineral resources, especially uranium, the country's main source of revenue.

Needless to say, what is being described in Niamey as the French plot is simply unacceptable. This is why the weekly DEMOCRATE urgently called on the Niger Government to seek a clear and unambiguous clarification from France on this affair. To crown it all, the weekly REPUBLICAIN, which is close to the Tuareg community, this week published an interview with Mano Dayak, president of the Coordination of the Armed Resistance, a coalition of four organizations of the Tuareg rebellion. This interview gave support to France's critics. Some Tuaregs even joined in the criticism. Thus a group of intellectuals, claiming to represent the black Tuareg community, issued a press release denouncing France's efforts to keep them in ignorance and servitude. France, they claim, is largely responsible for the trampling of our rights and liberties by deciding to put our community under the trusteeship of the white Tuareg minority.

Representatives of the Niger Government and the rebellion are to resume their negotiations at the end of this

month in Paris. France, Algeria, and Burkina Faso have been chosen as mediators by the two sides. The Tuareg rebellion has already claimed over 100 lives since it was launched at the end of 1991. It seeks the right to autonomous administration of certain northern regions and is also demanding quotas which guarantee its community's representation within the government, the National Assembly, and the Niger Army. [end recording]

Nigeria

France Denies Military Presence in Bakassi Peninsula

AB0803150494 Paris AFP in French 1240 GMT
8 Mar 94

[Text] Paris, 8 Mar (AFP)—France on 8 March denied any French military presence in the Bakassi Peninsula, the disputed border territory between Nigeria and Cameroon, contrary to claims by the Nigerian Armed Forces spokesman.

French Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman Richard Duque said Paris "denies the information claiming that French soldiers have been deployed in Bakassi Peninsula and Isengele. There is no French soldier in the area," he said.

Nigeria's Colonel Edet Okon stated on the morning of 8 March that "French troops have been physically deployed on the ground in East Atabong and Isengele" located in the disputed area.

According to Mr. Duque, "France has about 50 military advisers in Cameroon on a permanent basis in line with defense agreements between the two countries."

About 15 of the number recently arrived in Cameroon at the request of the Cameroonian Government," the spokesman recalled. He also expressed the hope that "diplomatic efforts being made by all sides for a peaceful settlement will yield positive effects soon."

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